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LB 395

self-report because we've got an extremely friendly Department of Environmental Quality which is our regulatory body here in Nebraska. There's really no problem. Senator Jones acknowledged in his district he knows of no one who self-disclosed that was ever fined or penalized. I asked in the hearings every one of the testifiers in support of this legislation whether they had any problems in their industry. Mr. Gene Mercer, representing the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce, who has been with Goodyear Tire and Rubber for 15 years in an environmental regulatory capacity, said that he knew of no one who had ever been fined or penalized for having self-disclosed. Senator Kristensen said that he knew of no one who had ever had that happen to them here in Nebraska. Mr. Rick Wade, representing the Nebraska Cooperative Council, which represents 90 percent of the rural co-ops in the state said that there had never been a problem with the co-ops and anyone self-disclosing and being penalized by DEQ. Mr. John Hetchko, who represented Square D Corporation and the State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and he is the vice chair of their environmental council, stated that he knew of no instance where anyone had ever self-reported and was penalized. Roger Helgoth, representing the American Engineers Council of Nebraska, said he knew of no situation where anybody had self-disclosed and were penalized. Robert Hallstrom, with the Nebraska Federation of Independent Business and the Nebraska Banking Association, also responded negatively. Every one of the testifiers in support of the bill acknowledged that they knew of no instance in Nebraska, no instance, where anyone had ever self-disclosed and they had been penalized. Further...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...when our director of DEQ, Randy Wood, came up to testify...and I have the transcript right here if anybody would look at it and look at their words themselves. Randy Wood said, and he repeated it in a letter to me, that he knows of no instance ever in Nebraska where anyone voluntarily disclosed information and they were penalized for it. It just hasn't happened. We really don't need the law in Nebraska when there isn't a need for it, when people aren't being penalized, and in addition to that, there is now, as a result of national efforts, there is currently an EPA policy that allows for environmental